

Notice to Candidates Who Have Changed Names Within the Last Three Years

Who does this apply to?

A candidate who has changed his or her name, whether by a statutory or common law procedure in Illinois or any other jurisdiction.

How long does this apply?

Changes made within three years leading up to the last day for filing the petition or certificate for that office must be disclosed.

What must be disclosed, and where?

The candidate's name on the petition must be followed by:

1. "formerly known as (list all prior names during the 3-year period) until name changed on (list date of each such name change)"
2. The petition or certificate must be accompanied by the candidate's affidavit stating the candidate's previous names during the period specified
3. The date or dates each of those names was changed

Pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/16-3, the information specified above shall appear on the ballot along with the candidate's current name.

What happens if previous names are not disclosed?

Failure to meet these requirements shall be grounds for denying certification of the candidate's name for the ballot or removing the candidate's name from the ballot, as appropriate.

Are there exceptions?

Yes. These requirements do not apply to name changes resulting from:

- Adoption to assume an adoptive parent's or parents' surname
- Marriage or civil union to assume a spouse's surname
- Dissolution of marriage or civil union
- Declaration of invalidity of marriage or civil union to assume a former surname or a
- Name change that conforms the candidate's name to his or her gender identity.

Why is this required?

Illinois law requires this to be disclosed to voters when signing a petition, and when it is presented to them on a ballot. From 10 ILCS 5/7-10.2, 8-8.1, 10-5.1, and 16-3:

...If a candidate has changed his or her name, whether by a statutory or common law procedure in Illinois or any other jurisdiction, within 3 years before the last day for filing the petition or certificate for that office, whichever is applicable, then (i) the candidate's name on the petition or certificate must be followed by "formerly known as (list all prior names during the 3-year period) until name changed on (list date of each such name change)" and (ii) the petition or certificate must be accompanied by the candidate's affidavit stating the candidate's previous names during the period specified in (i) and the date or dates each of those names was changed; failure to meet these requirements shall be grounds for denying certification of the candidate's name for the ballot or removing the candidate's name from the ballot, as appropriate, but these requirements do not apply to name changes resulting from adoption to assume an adoptive parent's or parents' surname, marriage or civil union to assume a spouse's surname, or dissolution of marriage or civil union or declaration of invalidity of marriage or civil union to assume a former surname or a name change that conforms the candidate's name to his or her gender identity...